

Focus on Prince

Photographer honored at Winslow House

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MARSHFIELD – For the last decade, Duxbury resident Julius A. Prince Jr. has chronicled historical and cultural events in South Shore towns. From Duxbury to Kingston to Marshfield, Prince balances his time so well that he typically covers several different events on any given day.

Photographically recording a particular place at a particular moment, first in film, now with a digital single lens camera, remains a pastime for Prince.

Most of all, Prince captures people experiencing a moment.

On Saturday, at the 1699 Historic Winslow House & Cultural Center on Careswell Street in Marshfield, it was Prince who was the focus of the event.

For his longtime work, Prince received the non-annual Mayflower Award for distinguished service from the Board of Governors of the Winslow House. The Historic Winslow House Association is led by the volunteer Board of Governors and an executive director. The site is on the National Register of Historic Places.

“Nobody deserves it more,” said Jessica Doherty, executive director of the Winslow House, after the Sept. 23 afternoon gathering.

Photography is Prince’s art medium. He said he likes the artistic creativity of capturing images and photos.

In remarks journalist David A. Mittell Jr. prepared for the eight-member Winslow House Board of Governors, on which Mittell serves, he noted Prince’s earlier life.

Prince “grew up in Roxbury carrying a Brownie camera wherever he went. As a young man, he earned two advanced degrees. For the last 30 years, he has worked as a photographer with Middlebrooks Associates. His photographic work for the Martin Luther King Association has taken him to New York, Baltimore, Atlanta, Albuquerque, Los Angeles and in 1988, to Rome.”

Mittell and Prince know each other from the photographer’s work taking pictures at “every important Winslow House event for a generation.”

And, from their work together at the Duxbury Clipper and the Duxbury Free Library.

“For a long time, I called him ‘the nicest man in Marshfield and Duxbury,’” Mittell wrote. “That was not accurate, since Mr. Prince personifies the words attributed to William of Wykeham, the fourteenth century chancellor of England, that ‘manners makyth man.’ But to [limit] him to two towns, or to simply being a nice man, does not do him justice.”

Further, Mittell noted, “Mr. Prince and his wife Elaine have lived in Duxbury for 44 years. His picture-taking, much of it voluntarily, has included the Bumpus Gallery in Duxbury, the Duxbury Rural & Historical Society, the Kingston Public Library and the Ventress Memorial Library in Marshfield.

“As the great-grandson of a slave, Mr. Prince brings with his kindly manners a commitment to justice that may be fiercer than at first it seems. I like to say that saving a treasure like the Winslow House should be joyous. Whenever Julius is here, it is joyous. Helping to give this man our special, non-annual Mayflower Award is the greatest joy I hope to have as president of the Association.”

Prince said after the award presentation that he felt honored. It's his photographic work that is key to him. He said a photograph taken one day may be meaningful 10 years later, when it serves as a visual historic marker.

And in true Prince style, he brought his camera to Saturday's meeting.

“What I am doing here, in all of these places, is preserving a moment in time, in history,” Prince said. “What I am doing is recording history, and it's important to me.”



Photographer Julius A. Prince Jr. and Jessica Doherty, executive director of the House & Cultural Center in Marshfield, on Sept. 23, the day Prince received the non-Annual Mayflower Award for distinguished service from the house's volunteer Board of Governors.

Photo by Lisa Connell